**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

# DRY CLEANING PLANTS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Article 1, section 105 of the Los Angeles County Fire Code states… a permit shall be obtained from the Fire Prevention Division prior to engaging in the following: … to engage in the business of dry cleaning or to change to a more hazardous cleaning solvent. Such permits shall prescribe the class of system being used. See Article 36. Additional requirements may be applicable.

Plant and System Classification Dry-cleaning plants and systems shall be classified according to the character of the flammable or combustible liquids used or stored as listed below (see Section 3603.2 regarding the use of Class I liquids):

1. Class II plants or systems are those plants or systems in which Class II combustible liquids in quantities that exceed the exempt amounts set forth in Articles 79 & 80 are used as solvents for dry cleaning.
2. Class III-A plants or systems are those plants or systems in which Class III-A combustible liquids in quantities that exceed the exempt amounts set forth in Articles 79 & 80 are used as solvents for dry cleaning.
3. Class III-B plants or systems are those plants or systems in which Class III-B combustible liquids in quantities that exceed the exempt amounts set forth in Articles 79 & 80 are used as solvents for dry cleaning.
4. Class IV plants or systems are those plants or systems in which only Class II, Class III-A or Class III-B combustible liquids not exceeding the exempt amounts set forth in Article 79 & 80; or noncombustible liquids are used as solvents for dry cleaning, using flammable and combustible liquids only for spotting.

Except for the quantities of liquids allowed for scouring, brushing or spotting in Section 3603.13, when more than one class of flammable or combustible liquid solvent is used or stored in a plant or system, the plant or system classification shall be based on the numerically lowest class.

Control of Solvents Solvents shall not be changed to a solvent in a more hazardous classification unless the chief has approved such change and a new permit has been issued. The chief is authorized to require that samples of solvents be taken and tested to verify that a plant or system is correctly classified. Tests shall be by an independent agency or laboratory. Approved portable fire extinguishers of a type suitable for fighting fires involving flammable or combustible liquids shall be provided in dry-cleaning plants in accordance with Article 10. At least one extinguisher shall be provided at each entrance to rooms where flammable or combustible liquids are stored or used. Smoking in dry-cleaning plants shall only be within designated smoking rooms. NO SMOKING signs shall be posted in rooms containing flammable or combustible liquids.

Noncombustible Liquid Dry Cleaning Equipment used for dry cleaning with noncombustible liquids shall be suitable for the type of solvent utilized and shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Transfer and circulation of solvents shall be through closed systems. Pumps shall be designed with leakproof seals. Flow and sight glasses shall be protected from physical damage. Dry Cleaning systems shall be provided with an automatically activated exhaust ventilation system to maintain a minimum 100 feet per minute air velocity through the loading door when the door is opened. Storage of flammable and combustible liquid solvents and waste solvents shall be in accordance with Article 79.

Spotting operations Areas where flammable and combustible liquids are used for spotting operations shall not be accessible by the public. Dispensing of flammable and combustible liquids for spotting operations shall be done from approved containers. The amount of flammable and combustible liquid solvents at each workstation shall not exceed 1 gallon, 1 pint of which is allowed to be in a plastic container.

Flammable/Combustible Liquid Dry Cleaning Class I liquids shall not be used for dry-cleaning. The temperature of Class II and Class III-A liquids shall not exceed $90^0$F. The temperature of Class III-B liquids shall not be in excess of $30^0$F below their flash point.

General Buildings or portions thereof containing dry cleaning operations shall be classified in accordance with the Building Code.

Fire Protection Buildings containing dry cleaning plants shall be protected throughout by an automatic fire sprinkler system in accordance with the Building Code.

Location Dry cleaning rooms and solvent storage rooms shall be located only on the first story.

Ventilation A mechanical ventilation system designed to exhaust 1 CFM per square foot of floor area shall be installed in dry cleaning and drying rooms. The ventilation system shall operate automatically when the dry cleaning equipment is in operation and shall have manual controls at an approved location.

Fuel-burning Equipment Fuel-burning equipment shall be separated from dry cleaning operations and solvent storage areas as required by Section NO TAG. Circulating air systems which return air from dry cleaning or solvent rooms to fuel burning or other heating equipment shall not be used. Exception: Forced-air, fuel burning or other heating equipment which is separated from the dry cleaning room is allowed when only Class III-B systems are used.

Electrical Wiring Artificial illumination shall be by electricity. Electrical wiring and equipment shall be installed in accordance with the Electrical Code.

Solvent Containers, Tanks & Transferring Equipment Containers and tanks shall be in accordance with Section 7902. Transferring of solvents from storage tanks through processes shall be by closed circuit piping. Fill openings to storage tanks shall be located outside the building at an approved location. Inlets shall be permanently identified with the appropriate liquid classification. A gaging device shall be installed on inside storage or treatment tanks. Gaging devices shall be of a design that will not allow vapors or liquids to escape within the building in case the gage is broken. When underground treatment and settling tanks are used, a separate suction pipe shall be carried to the bottom of the tank and a pump shall be installed to remove sludge. Discharge piping from the pump shall connect to a suitable container. Treatment tanks shall be constructed in accordance with approved standards, and shall be designed for working pressure not less than 15 psig when they are subjected to pressures greater than atmospheric. Pressure relief devices shall be installed on treatment tanks that are subjected to pressures greater than atmospheric which will prevent the pressures in the tank from exceeding 10% above the working pressure. Pressure type filters shall be equipped with a reliable pressure gage and shall not be operated at pressures exceeding those for which they were designed. Filters shall be equipped with an air-bleeding valve and line connected to discharge into a washer or into the storage tank vent line. Air bleeding lines shall not discharge into the room. Pressure-relief devices shall be installed on pressure filters to prevent the pressure in the filter from rising more than 10% above its working pressure. Relief devices shall be connected to an underground tank or dry cleaning unit by piping not less than ¾ inch diameter. Sight glasses, the breakage of which would allow the escape of liquids, shall not be of the type readily damaged by heat and shall be protected from physical damage.

Additional
Requirements_____

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